

What is claimed is:

1. A removable processor enclosure apparatus for use in a gaming machine, said gaming machine having a housing defining an interior portion, CPU electrical components to perform gaming thereof, and a first electrical
5 connector disposed in said interior portion, said enclosure apparatus comprising:

an enclosure securably containing the CPU electrical components in an interior space thereof, and adapted for sliding receipt in the interior portion of the gaming machine housing between a mounting condition, mounting the
10 enclosure to the housing and electrically coupling a second electrical connector of the enclosure to the first electrical connector of the housing, and a removal condition, enabling removal of said enclosure from the housing;

a door movably mounted between an open position, allowing access to the interior space, and a closed position, preventing access to the interior space;
15 and

a lock mechanism cooperating between the door and the enclosure to prevent movement of the door from the closed position to the open position.

2. The removable processor enclosure as recited in claim 29, wherein
20 said door is coupled by hinges to the enclosure allowing operation between the open position and the closed position.

3. The removable processor enclosure as recited in claim 29 wherein
the lock mechanism includes a primary locking member movably
25 mounted to the door between a locked condition, engaging the enclosure to lock the door in the closed position, and an unlocked condition, disengaging the door to enable movement thereof to the opened condition.

4. The removable processor enclosure as recited in claim 31 wherein

said lock mechanism includes a rotor member rotatably mounted to the door, and

said locking member having one end pivotally mounted to the rotor member, and another end extending into a slot of the enclosure when the locking member is moved, upon rotation of said rotor member, from the
5 unlocked condition to the locked condition.

5. The removable processor enclosure as recited in claim 32 wherein,
said lock mechanism further includes a secondary lock member
10 cooperating with the rotor member to retain the primary lock member in the locked condition.

6. The removable processor enclosure as recited in claim 33 wherein,
said secondary lock member includes a neck portion affixed to the rotor
15 member in a manner engaging the primary lock member in the unlocked condition, and engaging a latch member of the enclosure in the locked condition to retain the primary lock member engaged in the slot of the enclosure.

20 7. The removable processor enclosure as recited in claim 31 further including
a sensor switch coupled to the lock mechanism to detect whether the door is in the open position or closed position

25 8. The removable processor enclosure as recited in claim 35, wherein
said sensor further adapted to determine whether the lock mechanism is in the locked condition or in the second unlocked condition..

9. The removable processor enclosure as recited in claim 29, further
30 including:

a release device interengaged between the gaming machine housing and the enclosure, and selectively movable between a first position, locking the enclosure in the mounting condition, and a second position, releasing the enclosure from the mounting condition to the removal condition and
5 disconnecting the second electrical connector from the first electrical connector.

10. The removable processor enclosure as recited in claim 29 further including:

10 an external connector device electrically coupled to selected electrical components of the enclosure apparatus, and accessible from outside of the enclosure while the enclosure is mounted to the gaming machine housing in the mounting condition.

15 11. The removable processor enclosure as recited in claim 38, wherein the external connector device is selected from the group consisting of USB connectors, Ethernet connectors, serial port connectors, parallel port connectors.

20 12. The removable processor enclosure as recited in claim 29 further including:

a computer readable media electrically positioned within the interior space of the enclosure, and coupled to the electrical components therein.

25 13. The removable processor enclosure as recited in claim 40, wherein the computer readable media is one of a CD-ROM drive, DVD ROM drive, hard disk drive, magneto-optical disk drive, and magnetic tape drive.

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